

1.

Sir John, a British scientist who won last year's Nobel Prize for medicine, said he had predicted at the time of his frog experiments that the successful cloning of a mammal would happen within 50 years, and that "maybe the same answer is appropriate" for the step to human cloning. Parents who lose children in accidents may be able to clone "copies" to replace them then.

Although any attempt to clone an entire human would raise complex moral issues, the biologist claimed people would soon overcome their concerns if the technique became medically useful. Cloning was regarded with extreme doubts when it was first developed but became widely accepted after the birth of Louise Brown, the first "test tube baby". He said, "When my first frog experiments were done, an American reporter asked how long it will be before these things can be done in mammals or humans. I said, 'Well, it could be anywhere between 10 years and 100 years—how about 50 years?' It turned out that it wasn't far off the mark as far as Dolly was concerned. Maybe the same answer is appropriate." Sir John added that cloning a human being effectively means making an identical twin, and doctors would therefore simply be "copying what nature has already produced".

The average vote on allowing parents of deceased children, who are no longer fertile, to create another using the mother's eggs and skin cells from the first child, thinking the technique was safe and effective, is 60 per cent in favor. The reasons for "no" are usually that the new child would feel they were some sort of a replacement for something.

21. Sir John predicted the human cloning would be a reality in \_\_\_\_\_ at most.

- A. 100 years    B. 60 years    C. 50 years    D. 10 years

22. According to the text, which statement is NOT true?

- A. Louise Brown is the first "test tube baby".  
B. Human cloning is still a controversial topic.  
C. Sir John is positive about the future of human cloning.  
D. Human cloning is creating something that didn't exist before.

23. What does the text mainly talk about?

- A. The life of Sir John.                      B. Prediction on human cloning.  
C. Views on human cloning.              D. Achievements in human cloning.

2.

Transparent animals let light pass through their bodies the same way light passes through a window. These animals typically live between the surface of the ocean and a depth of about 3,300 feet—as far as most light can reach. Most of them are extremely delicate and can be damaged by a simple touch. Sonke Johnsen, a scientist in biology, says, "These animals live through their life alone. They never touch anything unless they're eating it, or unless something is eating them."

And they are as clear as glass. How does an animal become see-through? It's trickier than you might think.

The objects around you are visible because they interact with light. Light typically travels in a straight line. But some materials slow and scatter(散射) light, bouncing it away from its original path. Others absorb light, stopping it dead in its tracks. Both scattering and absorption make an object look different from other objects around it, so you can see it easily.

But a transparent object doesn't absorb or scatter light, at least not very much. Light can pass through it without bending or stopping. That means a transparent object doesn't look very different from the surrounding air or water. You don't see it ---you see the things behind it.

To become transparent, an animal needs to keep its body from absorbing or scattering light. Living materials can stop light because they contain pigments(色素) that absorb specific colors of light. But a transparent animal doesn't have pigments, so its tissues won't absorb light. According to Johnsen, avoiding absorption is actually easy. The real challenge is preventing light from scattering.

Animals are built of many different materials---skin, fat, and more---and light moves through each at a different speed. Every time light moves into a material with a new speed, it bends and scatters. Transparent animals use different tricks to fight scattering. Some animals are simply very small or extremely flat. Without much tissue to scatter light, it is easier to be see-through. Others build a large, clear mass of non-living jelly-like(果冻状的) material and spread themselves over it.

Larger transparent animals have the biggest challenge, because they have to make all the different tissues in their bodies slow down light exactly as much as water does. They need to look uniform. But how they're doing it is still unknown. One thing is clear: for these larger animals, staying transparent is an active process. When they die, they turn a non-transparent milky white.

24. According to Paragraph 1, transparent animals \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. stay in groups                      B. can be easily damaged  
C. appear only in deep ocean        D. are beautiful creatures

25. The underlined word "dead" in Paragraph 3 means \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. silently    B. gradually  
C. regularly    D. completely

26. One way for an animal to become transparent is to \_\_\_\_\_.